Special Announcement

September 21, 2016

New Orleans District Service Area Changes For Coastal Marsh Mitigation Banks

The New Orleans District has approved a change to the boundary between the Deltaic and the Chenier Plain Service Areas. Currently, this boundary is determined by 8 digit HUCs except within HUC 08080103, where within this 8 digit HUC it is determined by the Vermilion/Iberia parish line. Upon consultation with the Interagency Review Team (IRT), the New Orleans District has re-defined the boundary to be more consistent with the methodology used to determine other service areas associated with mitigation, except in this instance it was deemed appropriate to utilize the 10 digit HUCs within HUC 08080103. Each of these 10 digit HUCs were evaluated based on the characteristics of the predominant hydric soils in that area in order to determine which coastal plain that 10 digit HUC most represented. The outcome is that 0808010301, 0808010302, 0808010304, 0808010307, 0808010308 and 0808010309 have been identified as within the Deltaic Plain Service Area and 0808010303, 0808010305, and 0808010306 have been identified as within the Chenier Plain Service Area.

In addition to this change to the coastal plain service area boundaries, two additional 8 digit HUCs, 08070202 and 08070203, were added to the Deltaic Plain Service Area. The lower portion of these HUCs are located within the area designated as the Louisiana coastal zone which is consistent with how HUCs have been assigned to these service areas in regards to their upper boundary.

The New Orleans District has also approved a change to the service area assigned for Fresh and Intermediate Marsh habitats that are tidally influenced. The service area for these habitat types will be changed to the coastal plain associated with the location of the mitigation. It was determined these types of habitats are connected to tidal processes in a similar manner as brackish and salt marshes and therefore, should have the same service areas. Please note that the service area for fresh marsh that is not tidally influenced will remain the Louisiana river basin(s) associated with the location of the mitigation since these areas are more characterized by those inland processes.

If you have questions regarding this information, you may contact Brenda Archer at (504) 862-2046.